

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for repairing a synthetic ~~tent, tarp or fiber~~ fabric item weather barrier comprising the steps of:

placing a seam portion of ~~the synthetic fiber fabric item tent, tarp or fabric weather barrier~~ on a working surface, and aligning said seam along a welder path;

selecting a hot air welder;

positioning ~~selecting elongate,~~ synthetic vinyl tape of sufficient length to overlie said seam portion;

actuating ~~and orienting~~ said hot air welder to emit a hot air jet that impinges on said tape and moving said hot air welder over said ~~to be repaired synthetic tent, tarp or fabric weather barrier along said welder path~~ to effect a thermal welding of said tape to the fabric of said synthetic fiber fabric item ~~tent, tarp or fabric weather barrier, and aligning said tape along and substantially centered on said seam portion to thermally said synthetic tape to said fabric of said to be repaired synthetic tent, tarp or fabric weather barrier.~~

2. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said tape consists essentially of one or more strips of sheet vinyl material.

3. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising, prior to said positioning, cleaning a portion of said synthetic fiber fabric item that will come into contact with said tape.

4. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein said cleaning comprises wiping with lacquer thinner.

5. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said synthetic fiber fabric comprises polyester material.

6. (new) A method of treating an item comprising synthetic fiber fabric having a sewn seam, said method comprising:
 - cleaning a portion of said fabric along said seam;
 - positioning a strip of vinyl material overlying said seam; and
 - melting said strip and said fabric together along said seam by directing heated air onto said strip.
7. (new) The method of claim 6 further comprising laying said fabric on a flat working surface.
8. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein said cleaning comprises wiping with lacquer thinner.
9. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein said fabric is selected from the group consisting of polyester and nylon.
10. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein said melting is performed by an automatic hot air welder.
11. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein said positioning comprises substantially centering said strip on said seam.
12. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein said melting causes said seam to be virtually water-impervious.

13. (new) A method of treating an item comprising polyester fiber fabric having a sewn seam, said method comprising:

cleaning a portion of said fabric along said seam by wiping said fabric with lacquer thinner;

laying said fabric on a flat working surface;

positioning a strip of vinyl material such that said strip overlies and is substantially centered on said seam; and

causing an automatic hot air welder to travel along said seam and bond said strip to said fabric by directing heated air onto said strip such that said seam becomes virtually water-impervious.

14. (new) The method of claim 13 wherein said item comprises a tent.

15. (new) The method of claim 13 wherein said item comprises a tarp.

16. (new) The method of claim 13 wherein said item comprises a fabric weather barrier.